

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 IO-10 PA-01 PRS-01 INT-05 FEA-01 NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ECON, ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: RUBBER: MEETING OF IRSG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REF: LONDON 17793

1. RE POINTS RAISED REFTEL:

A. PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT ASSEMBLY: INITIAL SOUNDINGS
WITHIN DEPARTMENT INDICATE THERE VIRTUALLY NO RPT NO POSSI-
BILITY OF USG EXTENDING INVITATION TO IRSG TO HOST NEXT
ASSEMBLY IN US IN 1976, DUE TO LACK OF SUFFICIENT LEAD
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TIME FOR BUDGET PLANNING PURPOSES. AT THIS POINT, BUDGET

FOR US-HOSTED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN FY 1977 (I.E., FY ENDING SEPT 30 1977) APPEARS FULLY COMMITTED. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT WILLING STUDY POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING IRSG ASSEMBLY IN FY 1978. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WOULD NEED AS COMPLETE DETAILS AS POSSIBLE OF EXPENSES INVOLVED, E.G., ESTIMATED TOTAL MAN HOURS FOR TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS; ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER PAGES OF DOCUMENTATION; ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES; ETC.

B. REPLACEMENT OF SECRETARY GENERAL: DURING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (XC) MEETINGS AT 24TH ASSEMBLY, NUMBER OF DELEGATES NOTED OBSTACLE TO RECRUITMENT OF FULLY QUALIFIED DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL POSED BY LACK OF HMG RECOGNITION OF IRSG AS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR TAXATION PURPOSES. IN EFFECT, THIS MEANS REAL IRSG SECRETARIAT SALARIES REDUCED BY APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT DUE TO UK TAXES. UK DEL INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF AGAIN SEEKING TAX EXEMPT STATUS FOR IRSG ONCE PRESENT SECRETARY GENERAL RETIRED, AS MEANS OF ATTRACTING TOP LEVEL CANDIDATES. WITH JUNE 1976 RETIREMENT OF CURRENT SECRETARY GENERAL NOW CONFIRMED, ISSUE OF TAX FREE STATUS FOR IRSG APPEARS TO BE A REAL ONE (AS OPPOSED TO LARGELY THEORETICAL ONE). THUS FAR DEPARTMENT HAS HAD ONE INQUIRY ABOUT DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION, BUT APPLICANT STATED HE WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT UNLESS HE COULD BE GUARANTEED TAX FREE STATUS. THIS MAY ALSO BE TRUE OF CANDIDATES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. UK XC DEL INJAKARTA INDICATED THAT IF AND WHEN ANOTHER ATTEMPT MADE TO SEEK TAX FREE STATUS FOR IRSG, UK DEL MIGHT ASK OTHER IRSG MEMBERS TO FORMALLY SUPPORT IRSG'S REQUEST TO HMG FOR TAX FREE STATUS. EMBASSY REQUESTED SOUND OUT UK DEL TO IRSG (DELL) RE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER APPROACH TO HMG AT THIS TIME SEEKING TAX FREE STATUS FOR IRSG IN ORDER TO DRAW TOP LEVEL CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY GENERAL. EMBASSY MAY INFORM DELL US WILLING TO SUPPORT IRSG REQUEST TO HMG IF DELL FEELS SUCH SUPPORT WOULD BE USEFUL. KISSINGER

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